

**CLAIMS**

- 5           1. A method for placing a radio communication device having a display that includes a first backlight and a red backlight in a surveillance mode, comprising the steps of:
- determining if the surveillance mode has been selected; and
- switching the display so that it uses the red backlight instead of the first backlight if the surveillance mode has been selected.
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2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the radio communication device has a speaker that can be adjusted to different volume levels and the method further comprises the step of:
- automatically adjusting the volume level of the speaker to a
- 15           predetermined level if the surveillance mode has been selected.
3. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the surveillance mode is selected by activating a key located on the radio communication device.
- 20           4. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the speaker is automatically muted if the surveillance mode is selected.

5. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein if the surveillance mode has been selected any alerts for incoming calls or messages are provided by a red light.
- 5 6. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein if the surveillance mode has been selected any alerts for incoming calls or messages are provided by an icon displayed on the display.
7. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein all audible alerts previously  
10 provided for incoming calls or messages are muted if the surveillance mode has been selected.
8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the radio communication device comprises a two-way radio communication device.
- 15 9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the radio communication device comprises a cellular telephone.
10. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein once in the surveillance mode,  
20 activating the key again causes the radio communication device to automatically switch the display so that the first backlight is used and the volume level of the speaker is returned to the same level it was set at prior to the surveillance mode being entered.

11. A radio communication device, comprising:

a display having a first backlight and a red backlight; and

a surveillance mode key coupled to the display for automatically

5 switching the display to operate using the red backlight instead of the first  
backlight.

12. A radio communication device as defined in claim 11, wherein the radio  
communication device comprises a two-way radio.

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13. A radio communication device as defined in claim 11, wherein the radio  
communication device comprises a cellular telephone.

14. A radio communication device as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

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a speaker coupled to the surveillance mode key;

an audio block coupled to the speaker; and

activating the surveillance mode key causes the audio block to set the  
audio volume level of the speaker to a predetermined level.

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15. A radio communication device as defined in claim 14, wherein activating  
the surveillance mode key causes the audio block to mute the speaker.

16. A radio communication device as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

a controller coupled to the surveillance mode key;

a LED coupled to the controller used for alerting when messages are received; and

5 a red light coupled to the controller, and the controller causes the LED to be deactivated and the red light to be activated and used to alert when messages are received when the surveillance mode key is activated.

17. A method for placing a radio communication device in a surveillance mode, comprising the steps of:

determining if the surveillance mode has been selected; and

5            adjusting the audio level and one or more light emitting sources found on the radio communication device to predetermined states of operation if the surveillance mode has been selected.

18. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the surveillance mode is

10           selected by activating a surveillance mode key found in the radio communication device.

19. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein one of the light emitting sources

on the radio communication device includes a display having a backlight  
15           and when the surveillance mode is selected, the display is backlit with a red light.

20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the red light found on the display can be adjusted to different light intensity levels and when the

20           surveillance mode is selected, the red light is adjusted to a low light intensity level.

21. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein one of the one or more light emitting sources comprises a backlight on a display located on the radio communication device and when the surveillance mode is selected, the backlight is turned off.

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22. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the one or more light emitting sources are disabled when the surveillance mode is selected.